

Extractors

What Extractors will take four shallow extracting frames $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep. Will a two-frame Cowan take four shallow frames $5\frac{3}{4}$?

WASHINGTON.

ANSWER.—The Cowan extractor with pockets 12x16 will take four shallow frames $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep, outside measure. Also the Novice, with pockets of the same size.

Winter Cases

Is Bartlett's winter packing case, such as shown on page 780 of the edition of 1917, of "A B C — X Y Z of Bee Culture," a good packing case for my location. It gets down pretty well below zero here, so I will want something warm. Last year I did not pack them at all and lost three out of twelve. It wasn't so bad in accordance with the other losses about here. There was one man lost 6 out of 7, another all he had, and the rest in proportion.

PENNSYLVANIA.

ANSWER.—I think you might expect good results from using Bartlett's packing case.

Alsike Clover

1. About how many colonies would you advise to keep for a 50-acre field of alsike clover, provided the weather, etc., were suitable, and a good stand of clover, there being no other honey plants in the vicinity?

2. Is alsike clover the best yielder of all the clovers? How is the quality?

ILLINOIS.

ANSWERS.—1. Just exactly how many colonies of bees would be required to keep 50 acres of alsike cleaned up is a secret that I'm afraid will never be found out. It might be 100 colonies, and it might be two or three times as many. It might be something different from either guess. Even if we know the exact number, it might not be advisable to have that number without considering something about what the bees could do before and after the blooming of alsike.

2. I don't know whether alsike or sweet clover takes the lead as a honey-yielder. Alsike honey is of best quality.

Goldens

1. Have you ever given those Golden Italian bees a fair test in your apiary with your 3-banded Italians for section comb honey? Read what Doolittle and O. O. Poppleton say about those Goldens for section comb honey. They say they get very much better results from those bees than any others. Also, Mr. John M. Davis, of Spring Hill, Tenn., says that he can't find any difference in wintering or honey gathering qualities of the Goldens compared with his 3-banded Italians, and he has Moore's long-tongue bees. Our State Inspector for Tennessee says he thinks this is just a notion of the people, as his Goldens are fine, and so do others. I have tried both plans of putting on the supers—both beeway and plain sections—and I get 100 per cent better results to put the empty supers on top when tiering up, and sometimes I have as many as 2 to 6 supers on hive at once, and my locality is very poor for bees, too. So I am requeening some of my black colonies of bees with Ben G. Davis's Golden Italians and some with Curd Walker's 3-banded Italians, and I want to see next year, if the season is good, if the Goldens come out winners in wintering and honey gathering. As Doolittle says, they are best of all for comb honey. Well, I had one colony of Goldens about 25 years ago and they were the best workers I ever saw in all my 30 years of work among my bees. I would like for some of the leading apiarists who run for comb honey to give their experience with the Goldens for comb honey through the American Bee Journal.

I would like for Mr. J. W. Lawrence, of Rustburg, Va., Route No. 3, to give his experience with the Goldens. Will you please ask him to send in his report at once. I see he says in Ben G. Davis's advertisement that he got 320 pounds of comb honey the first season.

TENNESSEE.

ANSWER.—I gave the Goldens the same chance as other colonies, if you call that a fair test. Yet, while I gave a fair test to the colonies I had, I cannot say that I gave a fair test to Goldens as a whole, for I had only a few of them, and one cannot always judge

many by the few. My own opinion of Goldens is rather from the testimony of others than from my own experience. It looks as if there were Goldens and Goldens, some good, some poor. While you quote those who praise them, a larger number might be quoted who do not.

You say Doolittle says Goldens are best of all for comb honey. Do you so understand from what he says in Gleanings for 1914, page 9, which you quote? He there says: "If I were producing comb honey altogether, I would procure a good queen of the golden variety, rearing all queens from her, and allow them to mate with any drones they might chance to meet, the most of which, without doubt, would be from an entirely different blood from themselves, which would give a direct cross. Such direct cross always gives the greatest vigor, and in reference to your question as regards the best bees for comb honey I should not care one cent whether the young queens from such a mother mated with drones from black or hybrid stock, as all my experience goes to prove that throughbred Golden Italians, mated to drones from black or hybrid mothers, give bees equal to the very best for comb-honey production." That certainly does not teach that he thought Goldens the best of all for comb honey, but does teach that he thought the right kind of hybrids as good as, if not better than, Goldens.

No matter what however may be the general opinion, if you can get better results with Goldens than with others, then Goldens are best for you.

If I understand you correctly, you get 100 per cent better results when tiering up section-supers by putting the empty supers on top than putting them under the others. If you can get even 10 per cent better results, then putting empties on top is the way for you. In my locality I get good results by putting the second super under, when a good flow is on, later putting an empty both above and below, and toward the close of the flow putting the empty on top.

Winter Entrance

If I put on winter case with entrance not even with entrance in hive, say hive entrance faces east, and I put entrance of case to south, with passage way to entrance, will the bees find this readily, and will it be O. K.?

ILLINOIS.

ANSWER.—I know nothing about it from experience, but should judge that such would depend upon the amount of opening. If the parts are so open, for instance, that the light entering the entrance to the case at the south can be seen at the entrance to the hive at the east, there should be little or no trouble. On the other hand, if it should be that no light from the south can be seen at the east entrance of the hive, there might be trouble, the bees being slower to fly on a warm day, or failing to fly altogether.

Illinois State Beekeepers' Association

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association will be held in the Sun Parlor of the Leland Hotel, in Springfield, on the 17th and 18th of December, next.

Mr. Morley Pettit, of Ontario, Can., will be with us; also Hon. N. E. France, of Platteville, Wis.; F. Eric Millen, State Apiarist of Iowa, and C. P. Dadant, Editor of the American Bee Journal.

With all these prominent men present we feel that we are assured of a good meeting.

Programs will be sent out to our 400 bee members before the date of the meeting.

Fellow members of the Association, remember the value of our published report depends upon what is done and spoken at this and the Chicago Conventions.

JAS. A. STONE, Sec.

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